GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2938
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
REMAINS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION AND URBAN SETTLEMENT
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that remains of a bustling ancient civilization and urban settlement have been found by Archaeological Survey of India in Kotalal, Anantnag district of South Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such findings suggesting ancient settlements and civilizations have been made in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and other States in the country during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) and (b) : The Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, recently carried out explorations in Kotabal, Distt. Anantnag, Kashmir. These explorations have reported to have revealed some decorative tiles bearing stamped geometrical, natural and abstract motifs. These tiles, forming part of a pavement, are similar to those found at Harwan, Distt. Srinagar, J&K. On stylistic grounds, the tiles are datable to circa 3rd-4th century A.D. The discovery suggests possibility of an ancient settlement thriving at the exploration site.

(c) and (d) : These tiles are remains of a unique kind, and are not so far reported to be found outside Kashmir, in any other state in India.